

**MTSA Regulations found at 33 CFR Subchapter H
Part 104.**

#25-04 APRIL 1, 2004---POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL FAQ

Q. Will the U.S. Coast Guard issue interim International Ship Security Certificates (ISSC)'s to U.S. Flag vessels prior to July 1, 2004?

Ans. Vessels subject to the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, (SOLAS) Chapter XI must carry on board a valid International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC) that certifies that the verifications required by part A Section 19.1 of the International Ship and Port Facility (ISPS) Code have been completed.

In order to meet the demand for ISSC documentation prior to July 1, 2004, the U.S. Coast Guard will offer industry the opportunity to demonstrate compliance with evidence of a submitted security plan, vice an approved security plan. Voluntary verification exams can be conducted in conjunction with a normal Inspection for Certification Exam or upon request for a SOLAS vessel. Vessels receiving Interim ISSC's will be required to provide proof to their cognizant Office, Chief Marine Inspection that their vessel security plan was approved without major revisions being made. Though the same dates will be used on the interim and permanent certificates, the interim certificate will expire on June 30, 2004. Although 6-month extensions are allowed under the ISPS Code, extensions are not authorized after the initial issuance.

NOTE For further guidance, a facility owner/operator should contact their local Captain of the Port (COTP/FMSC).